

# THE COLONNADE

The Official Student Newspaper of Georgia College

## THE RULES OF DRAG



Story on  
page 11



## About This Issue...

This issue covers a variety of topics. The News section covers the largely unnoticed Black Lives Matter protest that took place at the GC fountain on main camous, articles regarding how to give

back in Milledgeville this holiday season and an article covering the Jammin' for Julia fundraiser. The Sports section overviews Bobcat Madness, and previews the upcoming cheer-leading

season. The A&E section highlights two GC students laying down the rules of drag, overviews Mary Helen Higgs in the final installment of Art-to-Art Talks and showcases the senior art student gallery

opening.

Join us next semester on Monday nights for pitch at 6:30 in The Colonnade office, located in MSU.

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**Volume 93**  
**No. 11**



## The student protest that flew under the radar



Photo Courtesy of Sam Jones

The silent protestors spoke only with the messages on the signs they held and by playing clips from a speech by Martin Luther King Jr.

Zaria  
Gholston  
@gcsunade

A silent protest held by a group of black GC students at the A&S water fountain last month on Oct. 18 to stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement (BLM) on the subject of police brutality has received little media coverage and next to no acknowledgement by GC students.

Although the protest was captured on video and was a part of GC 360's Nov. 5 episode, there has not been much discussion on campus about the protest, diminishing the hopes of the

students who organized the protest in the hope of shedding light on this controversial subject.

Kevin Ojiagbaje, a freshman, seemed caught off guard when asked about the protest. He said he had not heard about a silent protest taking place and that he has heard no conversation amongst his fellow students about such an event.

"I feel like more of the campus media should cover things like this that concern the black community because we're so small here," Ojiagbaje said. "When they don't document or pay attention to stuff that concerns us, it feels like they're undermining the black community here."

Veronica Womack, director of Institutional Equity and Diversity, said that although she had heard a few details about the protest, she felt that in order for the protest to garner more attention on campus, more advertising would have been needed.

"I suggest that for future events like this, the organizers really utilize their resources like Frontpage, SGA and the Greek organizations on campus to spread the word so that more people can witness their event and maybe even participate," Womack said.

While the lack of advertisement appears to be the main reason why the protest received little recognition, freshman student

and fellow protest coordinator Fidelis Folifac, presented a different perspective of how low advertisement may have also been a strategy for the protest.

"I think the lack of advertisement gave the protest an element of surprise, and I feel like it was meant to be seen by those who saw it," Folifac said. "Also, you don't want to push [people] too hard, too quickly."

Folifac said that he felt the conversation about the protest was not supposed to last, but was rather supposed to raise expectations for future events, such as Tunnel of Oppression.

Hannah Thomas, a senior and the initial coordinator of the

protest, said that the conversation about BLM and police brutality are affecting GC students of color, and she felt the protest was necessary to make others more aware of how students of color are feeling and where they stand.

"That way, not only would they see our concerns laid out before them, but maybe they'd ask themselves, 'How can I help?'" Thomas said.

Other students were shocked to learn they did not know that a BLM protest had taken place on campus and said they hope that GC will implement a campus-wide discussion of pivotal issues like police brutality sooner rather than later.



# Milly gives back this holiday season

Benjamin Monckton  
@gcsunade

Thanksgiving is fast approaching, and many students are looking forward to setting their schoolwork aside for a few days to celebrate before finals begin. While some have already begun to fantasize about tables loaded with delectable Thanksgiving food, many people across the nation will not be spending their Thanksgiving the same way, including members of the local community.

However, GC students and the rest of the Milledgeville community have numerous opportunities available to benefit those in need this holiday season.

For example, Stacked Sandwiches and More is currently hosting their "Give Back with Stacked" canned food drive. Customers are encouraged to bring in as many canned food items as possible throughout the duration of the drive.

The canned food donations are going to benefit the Chard

Wray Food Pantry, a Milledgeville-based organization known for providing discounted groceries to families, seniors and others in the community who have difficulty affording nutritious food. The canned food drive is a way for students and members of the Milledgeville community to provide a Thanksgiving meal to those less fortunate.

Stacked is encouraging customers to donate as many cans as possible by implementing a reward system.

"We really hope that the drive brings together customers and students to help those less fortunate in our area," said event planner Taylor Ussery. "Every four cans that are brought in will earn a punch on the Stacked punched card that when completely filled out earns a free meal." Stacked's canned food drive will begin on Nov. 14 and end on Nov. 19.

In addition to Stacked's drive to provide a Thanksgiving meal, BRAVEheart will also be hosting a feminine products drive on campus.

BRAVEheart has set up donation boxes in the Arts and Sciences building, the Health & Sciences building, Atkinson Hall, Herty Hall and Russell Library.

"The drive that Braveheart is doing is a great opportunity to help victims of sexual violence in Georgia," said Hannah Plumb, BraveHeart member. "You never realize how much we take for granted things like feminine products until we don't have access to them anymore, which is why the benefits of the drive is crucial to victims in need."

The organization is accepting all toiletries, toilet paper, paper towels and children friendly books. All donations will be sent to Crisis Line.

Sophomore Kaylee Warfield is a GC student who said she actively searches out donation drives during the holidays.

"Seeing the happiness and joy you bring to people, that's what makes the holiday season so special," she said.

More information about these events can be found on each organization's Facebook page.

# A sluggish week at the Georgia College SGA

JD Davern  
@gcsunade

On Friday, in honor of the elections, SGA held its senate meeting in the presidential conference room in Parks Hall. However, the meeting was concluded in a record 20 minutes.

With an astonishing half of its staff missing, including the majority of the executives, SGA had little to report. Secretary Gabby Aladesuyi stepped in for both President Ahrens and Vice President Davis, reporting their absences.

"President Ahrens says, 'I'm bummed that I'm missing senate when we have it in the president's conference room,'" Aladesuyi read from a statement from Ahrens.

Ahrens wrote that she is currently at the Student Advisory Council fall conference, and she promised to give a full report on the conference

to SGA when she returns.

Aladesuyi then continued to Davis' report, in which he apologized for his absence from the senate meeting, but explained that he is currently at the Chamber of Commerce with his mentor from the GEM program.

In his statement, Davis thanked his fellow senators for their hard work throughout the week and encouraged them to continue to attend SGA-sponsored events.

Throughout the week, each committee had met and made progress on their long-term goals. Academic Affairs moved closer to abolishing the midterm satisfactory/unsatisfactory grading system, Student Emergency is still holding trivia nights and the budget is up to date as always.

However, this week's big event mentioned this week will be an open forum on the presidential election, headed by Senator Smith of Civic Engagement.

"We have a panel

discussion coming up, it's titled 'where do we go from here?'" said Senator Smith. "I think this would be a good thing because like a lot of people are confused, and we're all a little frazzled, so I think it would be really good to come together, and rather than having a debate, more of a discussion."

The forum will be held on Nov. 16 at 7:30 pm at the Depot. The forum will open with topics designed by various professors on campus, where they will go into more depth about what will happen in those areas in the future. There will be time for question and answer at the end of the event.

Senator Smith explained why she wanted to hold the event.

"I hate to see a campus being torn apart," Smith said. "I think a lot of people are caught off guard, and I'd like to see a room of people come together and move forward."



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JD Davern/ Contributing Photographer

SGA met in the president's offices this week.



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deals of the year  
are available one  
day only:

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# Jammin' for Julia honors GC student's legacy

Lizzy  
Kidney  
@gcsunade

Three years ago, Georgia College Student and member of the Phi Mu sorority, Julia Tarter, passed away in a car accident. To honor her memory and help raise money for the Julia Tarter Foundation, a scholarship foundation formed by Julia's parents in her honor, the Phi Mu sorority began holding a musical event called "Jammin' for Julia."

The event is a lip syncing competition, in which groups can sign up and perform songs of their choosing. This year, Jammin' for Julia was held in Russell Auditorium, and all of the proceeds raised went to the Julia Tarter Foundation.

"The event has been held in Centennial in the past, and now having it in Russell made it feel more official," said Caroline

Mccollum, Phi Mu sister. "It is great that the proceeds all go to Julia's scholarship, because it is all about raising money to help someone be relieved of financial stress."

Many people attend the event because it is light-hearted and fun for both Greek-life organizations as well as other groups on campus.

"Where else are you going to find boys in tights singing to High School Musical?" Caroline Mccollum said.

Maggie Coleman said she has enjoyed participating in Jammin' For Julia with Alpha Omicron Pi the last two years.

"Jammin' for Julia is just a fun way to be silly and light-hearted with your friends," Coleman said. "I was a dancer in the past, and this gave me an opportunity to do what I love while helping raise money for a good cause."

This year's event brought a large turn-out with a packed

auditorium. Julia's parents were among the audience members.

"Jammin' for Julia is a beautiful expression of how Julia lived her life at GCSU," said Kurt Tarter, Julia's father. "Dancing, laughing, inviting and collaborating with her fellow students brought Julia pure joy."

Aside from Phi Mu, Julia participated in organizations on campus such as Young Life and the Student Ambassador program. After her passing, her family began the Julia Tarter scholarship foundation to help continue her legacy here on campus.

"Julia's legacy will never

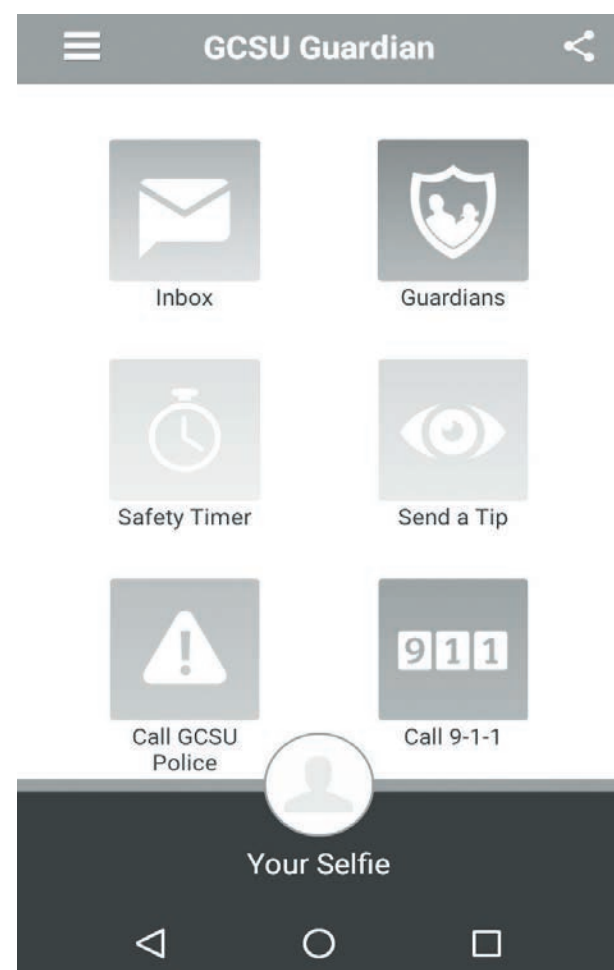
end, she never failed to try and brighten everyone's day," said Mccollum. "She had a way with people that just made you feel comfortable and safe, and through Phi Mu and events like Jammin' for Julia, she continues to make an impact."



Mary Kate Connor/ Staff Photographer

Many campus fraternities and sororities participate in the lip-syncing competition.

# A GC student's guide to safety on campus



Rave Guardian users can create safety profiles.

Lexi  
Garofalo  
@gcsunade

While Georgia College's Public Safety Department works extremely hard to keep everyone protected around campus, students have numerous other resources available for every day safety, such as the Rave Guardian app, emergency call boxes, safety classes and SNAP.

Rave Guardian is an app that allows users to create safety profiles that share their real-time locations with friends and family, known as each user's "guardians." Users can set a timer when going to an unfamiliar location and if the timer runs out and has not been deactivated, the user's guardians will be notified immediately and can send help to their exact location.

"It's like having a virtual safety escort," said Michael Baker, GC Public Safety sergeant of emergency management. "Rave Guardian also allows users to place panic calls to 9-1-1 or Public Safety and even send anonymous tips."

GC also has over 60 emergency call boxes placed around campus that give users instant communication with the GC public safety team. These boxes are accessible to anyone who feels like they are in an uneasy or dangerous situation.

When the red button on the safety box is pressed, a blue flashing light will flicker and help will be on the way.

Many students also use the Student Night Auxiliary Patrol, also known as SNAP, to be safely escorted around campus.

Students can use the GC official app to call for a SNAP officer to pick them up at any location on campus. This golf cart service operates from 8 p.m. until midnight Sunday through Wednesday and from 8 p.m. until 3 a.m. Thursday through Saturday.

"I worry about walking home at night since all of these clown sightings," said Taylor Bell, senior. "Using SNAP, I know I'm going to get from point A to point B in one piece."

Students who do choose to walk alone during late hours can enhance their personal safety by always being aware of their surroundings,

avoiding being absorbed in using their phones and trying to find a friend to accompany them.

"I definitely keep my head up and eyes peeled at night when I'm walking to and from my car or house, because you never know who or what is going to be lurking around the corner," said Stevie Seay, senior. "I would rather be safe than sorry."

Students can also sign up to take self-defense or rape prevention classes offered year-round by GC Public Safety. These classes give students the knowledge and skills to help prevent crime and sexual assault.

"Public Safety relies on the community as much as the community relies on Public Safety," said Baker. "To foster this relationship, we invite our students to get to know our officers."

For more information on ways to stay safe around campus, students can visit [www.gcsu.edu/publicsafety](http://www.gcsu.edu/publicsafety).

"Always be alert and aware of your surroundings," said GC Public Safety Capt. Raynard Tuft. "I strongly suggest utilizing every tool Georgia College has to offer."

# GA Gives Day expected to raise over \$25,000

Marlee  
Thomas  
@gcsunade

Georgia Gives Day is a 24-hour give-a-thon centered on bringing awareness and appreciation to non-profit organizations through monetary donations. The event, sponsored by Habitat for Humanity, is state-wide and will take place on Nov. 17.

The motivation behind Georgia Gives Day stems from Habitat for Humanity's dedication to eliminating substandard housing.

"I believe strongly charity begins at home," said Murali Thirumal, Milledgeville Habitat for Humanity executive director. "It's important that we realize what needs to be done at home before flying off to exotic lands."

Last year, Milledgeville's Habitat for Humanity raised \$25,000 on Georgia Gives Day. Hoping to surpass that amount this year, Thirumal has partnered with Mass Communication seniors Katelyn Akins, Hannah Houston and Taylor Roeck to develop a multi-level strategic campaign.

The students are working with Habitat for Humanity as a part of their senior capstone class. In preparation for Georgia Gives Day, their team has been in contact with local businesses, who have donated

items to raffle off throughout the event. The team also developed social media tactics to spread the word beforehand and promote awareness.

The funds raised through this year's Georgia Gives Day will primarily be used for the building of a new house for a local Milledgeville family.

Georgia Gives Day is based entirely online through the Georgia Gives Day website. Therefore, the GC strategic team has been utilizing social media, boosting the Facebook event page and printing fliers to get the word out.

"Anyone who wants to support can give," said Taylor Roeck, senior mass communication major and account executive. "We appreciate any amount."

Habitat for Humanity encourages students and community members to share the event on social media to get involved.

During specific time frames called "Power Hours," donors have the opportunity to win various prizes donated by local businesses.

"We have a Christmas tree we're giving away, some gift baskets, gift cards and we're also doing a competition with the Greek organizations to see who can donate the most," said Katelyn Akins, senior mass communication major and strategic coordinator.

Anyone who would like to donate

on Georgia Gives Day can visit the Milledgeville Habitat for Humanity Facebook page and click on the link to give, or visit the Georgia Gives Day website at [www.georgiagivesday.org](http://www.georgiagivesday.org).

Students who are interested in becoming more involved with Habitat for Humanity are encouraged to join GC's Habitat for

Humanity chapter, a student organization here on campus.

"Georgia Gives Day has my full support," said Steven Ledbetter, senior music major and Habitat for Humanity volunteer. "It's a way we present ourselves and create relationships with the community."



Marlee Thomas/ Contributing Photographer

Thirumal works with the GC PR team to promote Georgia Gives Day.

*Editor's Note: The "By day, By night" series of profiles on students and their careers will return to the Colonnade in January 2017.*

## A Letter to the Editor

Dear Colonnade,

Information Technology at Georgia College is committed to providing support to students, faculty and staff across our campus. We do this through a number of ways and continue to look for new and innovative ways to better serve our campus's technology needs.

That dedication to meeting the needs of our constituents is unwavering. Although at times we may need to adjust our procedures to meet demands—as with the new \$25 charge implemented this semester for in-depth technology repairs—service still remains at our core.

In fact, the money raised from the charge in conjunction with the Student Tech Fee funds more student workers and staff to allow for quicker turn-around times on repairs while also allowing students the opportunity to gain hands

on experience that could help with their future careers.

The charge is also not a fee required of all students who use our service. Instead it's an optional charge if the student decides to have certain high-level work done on their technology using our staff—which, might I add, is far less than what they would pay by going off campus. The majority of our collaborative support offerings are available to all we serve and they remain free.

Service is our primary focus in Information Technology. We are committed to providing the continued support to our campus constituents using all resources available to us.

Sincerely,

Bob Orr, Division of Information Technology Chief Information Officer

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## Swimming fountain?

**\*Obtained from Georgia College’s Public Safety Department\***

A student was sent to student judicial for swimming in the reflection pool on Oct. 22. Officer Mason found the man while patrolling W. Greene St. The student was told to exit the pool and was advised that he would be referred to student judicial for his actions.

## Intoxicated

**\*Obtained from Georgia College’s Public Safety Department\***

On Oct. 20 at 2 a.m., Officer Braumuller was dispatched to a GC residence hall when a CA called about an intoxicated resident. When he arrived at the scene, the CA informed Officer Braumuller that the student had just become responsive. The odor of alcohol lingered on the student’s breath as he admitted to having consumed alcoholic beverages previously downtown that evening. A citation was issued to the student for the underage possession of alcohol.

## In the cemetery

**\*Obtained from Georgia College’s Public Safety Department\***

Officer Braumuller responded to a call concerning an intoxicated man at Memorial Hill Cemetery. When he arrived at the cemetery at 2 a.m., he found the man unresponsive on the ground. Officer Braumuller began to conduct a sternum rub. The man began to move his arms but was unable to speak. However, Officer Braumuller could smell alcohol on his breath. When the EMS arrived, the man was able to speak, but he was not coherent. He was transported to Oconee Regional Medical Center, and his case will be referred to student judicial for public drunkenness.

## Get your own

**\*Obtained from Georgia College’s Public Safety Department\***

Officer Hatcher arrived to the intramural fields Nov. 5 in response to a report of a stolen 12-pack of Dr. Pepper. When she made contact with the GC student, he stated that around 1 p.m. he noticed three individuals snooping around a tent he set up in the parking lot for the game. When he and his friends approached the individuals, the suspects jumped into a vehicle and drove off. The GC student pursued the vehicle and snapped a picture of the license plate, which he gave to Officer Hatcher. When the plate number was run, Officer Hatcher was able to get the contact information of the owner. Officer Hatcher soon learned that the suspect was a student at GMC, and his truck was found in GMC’s parking lot. Inside his truck were the Dr. Peppers reported stolen. After contacting GMC’s police department, Officer Hatcher was able to make contact with and arrest the suspect for theft by taking.

## Not a hotel?

**\*Obtained from Georgia College’s Public Safety Department\***

A man was arrested in front of a GC residence hall on Oct. 29 at 1 a.m. Officer Braumuller found the man sleeping in front of the residence hall’s main entrance. When Officer Braumuller woke the man, he noticed the odor of alcohol coming from his breath, his slurred speech and glassy-looking eyes. The man admitted to having consumed alcohol downtown earlier that evening and stated that he was not a GC student, was under 21 and was not from Milledgeville. The man said he had lost his cell phone and was not able to contact anyone to find a place to spend the night. His breath test registered a BrAC .155. Officer Braumuller placed the individual under arrest for the underage possession of alcohol and public drunkenness. The individual was taken to the Milledgeville city jail.





# Bobcat Madness tips off men's and women's basketball seasons

Will  
Slaten  
@gcsunade

School spirit, food and free shirts brought GC students together this past Thursday evening as they rallied around the Centennial Center for the annual Bobcat Madness season kickoff event. The event was hosted by the Thunder Crew and was attended by students

and players alike with the goal of getting people excited for the upcoming spring sports seasons. The Thunder Crew also invited all registered student organizations to come to the event and table to show support.

"I was impressed with all of the participation. It was great to see students and their RSO's take advantage of our new patio area outside of Centennial," GC senior Courtney Lebeau said. "I think

it showed a lot of students how much fun we can make our GC sporting events if there is more participation."

The main event took place in the Centennial Center following the tailgate, which consisted of a dunk competition, a half court shot for a semester's worth of free books as well as SGA giving out a trophy to the loudest student group in attendance. Although no real games were played, Bobcat Madness is still a very important event for all sports teams at GC, not just basketball.

"Bobcat Madness is a way to kick off our season by getting the student body involved. We just know how important the student body is to our athletics overall," said head women's basketball coach Maurice Smith. "We really want to ignite something and keep it going throughout the year."

The task of 'igniting' something in terms of momentum for the season eventually will come down to how the teams do in play; however, it will be aided by the presence and dedication of the Thunder Crew.

"I believe we had about to same amount of people as last

year, but definitely more people stayed through the end and we had a much higher level of

**"There is an insane amount of Thunder Crew gear running around campus right now, so it's a definite success."**

*Breanna Harkins  
President of Thunder Crew*

participation and engagement. That's exactly what we were going for," said Thunder Crew president Breanna Harkins.

The Thunder Crew successfully gave over 300 hot dogs and hamburgers as well as 500 t-shirts and 300 koozies as catalysts to get students to turn out and generate excitement.

"There is an insane amount of Thunder Crew gear running around campus right now, so it's a definite success," said Harkins.

Unfortunately, the Thunder Crew will be on hiatus for the rest of the semester but has plans to come out strong this coming semester in support of GC athletics. GC students can expect more tailgates and giveaways at baseball, softball and basketball games in 2017, courtesy of the Crew.



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

Brice Booker executes a dunk in the dunk contest.



Ada Montgomery / Senior Photographer

Bobcat fans show excitement for dunks and free t-shirts.

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# Cheerleading welcomes in 13 new members

Marlee Thomas  
@gcsunade

Georgia College's cheerleading squad is preparing to cheer on the Bobcats to another successful season. Learning cheers, stunts and game-day routines are just some of what has been taking place at practice thus far.

Fans can expect to see several new faces this season as the squad has added 13 new members. With only three cheerleaders returning, the majority of practices have been centered around teaching the newcomers as well as conditioning to ensure the squad is in shape for the upcoming season.

"They have had to put a lot of work in inside and outside of practice," coach Kirstie Murner said. "When having multiple new members, we have to work on everything repetitively which can make practice a little stressful."

The team runs, goes to the gym outside

of practice and maintains healthy nutrition habits.

Murner described this year's squad as motivated and determined, and is excited about the work ethic they have. "I can already see the unity in this team and I know they will be very successful this year," Murner said.

Keeping the team motivated is a task taken on by the veterans.

"I really like to come in and try to encourage people during practice and make sure they're staying positive," said Clay Ricks, a business marketing major and senior. "I try and be a good example while I'm there."

The returners also play a role in holding the squad accountable.

"Making sure the team comes in and is prepared to work and also making sure people are wearing the right outfit and are on track and doing what they need to be doing outside of practice is really important," said accounting major Kristin Brannigan, a junior.

The squad showed off their skills at Bobcat Madness on Nov. 10. Additionally,



Photo courtesy of GC Athletics

Cheerleading squad excited for upcoming season.

the squad will be taking on the role of Russians in Georgia College's annual production of The Nutcracker.

Along with cheering on the men's and women's basketball teams, the squad is also fired up to compete in the spring. They

will compete in March at the Peach Belt Conference and again in April at NCAA College Nationals.

"This year's squad has a special bond," Ricks said. "I'm excited to see how this season plays out."

# Baldassini named to All-PBC second team

McKenna Jones  
@gcsunade

Senior Sol Baldassini was named to the All-Peach Belt Conference Second Team this year in her final season for the Bobcats. Sol is a midfielder on the women's soccer team at Georgia College. She has shown a major dedication to the sport throughout her four years on the team and has earned the respect of her teammates and coaches.

Teammate Alex Giles thinks that Sol is a really driven player

with a lot of dedication. Giles believes Sol is extremely deserving of being named to the All-PBC Second Team.

"When Sol goes out on the soccer field, you know she is going to give everything she has," Giles said.

"She just has like so much passion for the game and she just loves soccer and you can really see that



Photow courtesy of GC Athletics

every time she plays."

Assistant coach Matt Seib also highlighted the dedication Baldassini has for the sport of soccer. He described her as a great asset to their attack on the field.

"I think it's big for her to kind of show her contributions to the team over the span of four years," Seib said. "She is a very hard worker both in

games and in training."

Baldassini finished her season having played 20 games, mostly as a starter, with three goals and four assists. This gives her a total of eight goals and nine assists in her GC career, ranking 7th overall in Georgia College history.

"It means a lot, not just for me but for Georgia College as a whole," Baldassini said. "It's really cool to get more people coming out there and have our name out there. And for me personally it means a lot because I have been working really hard the past three years for this award,

and to get it on my last go-around, I think that's the sweetest part. I think it's a testament to hard work and dedication and patience."

Her legacy left at Georgia College is also very important. She is very centered around hard work and the genuine love for the sport.

"I want to be remembered for the hard work and for the love I have for the sport because it has been such a big part of my life," Baldassini said. "It's hard coming to grips with the fact that it's over and that I won't be out on the field anymore."

UP NEXT...

FRIDAY, NOV. 18

Women's Basketball  
Georgia College vs.  
Emmanuel  
4 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 19

Women's Cross  
Country  
NCAA  
Championship  
9:45 a.m.

Women's Basketball  
Georgia College vs.  
Aub.-Montgomery  
2 p.m.

Men's Basketball  
Georgia College at  
Tuskegee  
4:30 p.m.





# RULES OF DRAG

Compiled by Miya Banks

Georgia College's Department of Theatre and Dance is holding a drag show Nov. 17 at Buffington's in downtown Milledgeville. According to our experts anyone planning to attend should expect to have a blast at the wild and entertaining performance. But even though it's a time to let loose and have fun, there is certain etiquette attendees need to be aware of. Two GC students who live and breathe drag offered their advice for first-timers.

1

## R-E-S-P-E-C-T the process

Attendees should expect to see performers lip-syncing and dancing in stylish clothes, with gorgeous hair, wearing high heels and beautifully elaborate makeup. Drag queens put hours of time and effort into their acts. "Their numbers are meticulously worked on, and they practice a lot," said Dana Brigance, who is a staff member at the upcoming show.

2

## Look, but don't touch

"Don't initiate physical contact with the performers, they are there to perform" said Brigance, discouraging attendees from interrupting the show. She added that, "Sometimes they will initiate contact with you as part of the performance, and you let them." On a related note, don't harass performers. Luke Travis, a GC student who has performed in drag shows in Atlanta, said that "one of the main issues we run into while performing or hosting is a lot of people think that just because we're drag queens and we're maybe vulgar and eccentric, that it's okay to touch us sexually." Their vulgarity is not an invitation to touch them - it's part of their show.

3

## Tip, but don't make 'em work for it

Both Brigance and Travis agreed that tipping drag queens is very important because that may be all the money they get from a show. "Don't make them work for it. They're already working for it," said Brigance.

If a drag queen doesn't see you offering a tip immediately, don't get discouraged. "Trust me they see you holding out money. If they don't get to you immediately, be patient," said Brigance.

4

## Cheer, but check ya self

Boisterous cheering and clapping are commonplace at drag shows and are encouraged. Attendees are watching a show that is meant to be fun and entertaining, so it's fine to let loose and cheer as loudly as you like, as long as you aren't yelling offensive slurs. And remember, when drag queens are onstage, it's proper to use female pronouns even if, offstage, they identify as male.

Although it is acceptable to participate when a drag queen makes you part of their performance, don't include yourself unless the performer invites you to. "You're not the performer. People get really drunk at drag shows and think that's their opportunity to get up there and dance with her or by themselves," said Brigance.

5

## Have an open mind

Travis encourages people to attend with open minds. "Drag is something to celebrate. It's something creative, it's not something you see everyday, revel in it," said Travis.

Brigance said something similar: "Even if you don't enjoy the performance, clap, cheer, go crazy. You're not gonna get the experience you get at a drag show anywhere else, it's a very unique experience." Travis himself doesn't see his art form as having any rules. "When I'm in drag, I don't feel like a boy, I don't feel like a girl, I feel like this alien creature who gets to break all of earth's rules. I think drag is the most liberating freeing thing that you can ever do," said Travis.



Photo courtesy of Luke Travis

Katrina Prowess (above) is one of the drag queens who will make an appearance at the upcoming drag show hosted by GC's Pride Alliance.

## FREAK SHOW

Friday Nov. 17 11pm-1am

at Buffington's

**Admission:** \$5 at the door, cash only, extra \$2 for Drag Bingo from 9-11 p.m.  
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# Art-to-Art Talks

## with Mary Kate Conner

*Editor's Note: As we near the end of the semester, so too comes the end of the Art-to-Art Talks series. I am indebted to the people who gave their time to share their stories with me. You all bear witness to how important the arts are and will continue to be in our community.*

If you ever catch sight of a small redheaded woman with a determined look in her eyes power-walking across campus, you've probably spotted Mary Helen Higgs. If she's making her way to Russell Auditorium, that's definitely her.

Now in her senior year as a double major in theatre and rhetoric with two capstones on the horizon, Higgs never really has time to stop. This week, Higgs began her theatre capstone as stage manager for the Department of Theatre's upcoming main-stage show, "American Idiot." In addition to that, she will make her directing debut for the show "Wedding Shower" at the Directing Scenes shows on Dec. 1 and 2. This free show is put on by students like Higgs in the Directing I class here at GC.

Higgs' love of life on stage started when she was young. She grew up dancing and acting with various groups around her hometown of Milledgeville. Now, she uses her passion for theatre for a unique purpose.

"Combining my love of theater and my desire to learn how to communicate and listen just seemed like the right

choice," said Higgs. "It's kind of different, though, because I want to be a middle school youth pastor now. Coming into college I knew I wanted to do ministry through theater and it's led me to this."

With these two passions working together, Higgs said she is able to take what she learned in rhetoric classes about conflict resolution and active listening and apply that to stage managing in the theatre department. Those skills in turn have synced up in her work in ministry with middle school girls.

"In dealing with middle schoolers, you never know what you're gonna get," said Higgs. "Being able to listen to 'Guess what, I can do 5 cartwheels in a row!' as well as 'My mom and dad are getting a divorce next weekend,' and knowing how to equally listen to both of those [has been useful]."

Looking forward to an internship in middle school ministry this summer, Higgs said everything she has learned from both majors will contribute to her future. Stage managing skills will help in the strategic planning aspect, and her speaking and listening skills help her better care for the kids she comes in contact with.

Most importantly, Higgs said she is most passionate about the depth of meaning that theatre can carry.

"Knowing that I can have that [emotional] impact on people is one huge reason I want to combine theatre and



Mary Kate  
Conner/Staff  
Photographer

In her senior year, Higgs is finding her double major in theatre and rhetoric reaches farther offstage than she thought.

ministry," said Higgs. "I think theatre can make the gospel a lot more accessible."

Higgs added that for someone who may not be religious, seeing a theatrical performance with the same message of love may be easier than going to church, but will still carry the same effect. It is her passion for this that Higgs said keeps her motivated, especially now in the homestretch of her academic career.

"What keeps me in the game is knowing I can make a difference in the world using theatre," said Higgs. "If everyone does what they're passionate about, the world could be a totally different place."



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Tori Gleeson/Staff Photographer

Emily  
Moses  
@gcsunade

On Thursday, Nov. 10 from 5 to 7 p.m. Georgia College senior art majors came together to display their final pieces, which they called “Common Ground,” for other students, professors and family to see.

“I think art has the ability and the power to speak to so many people, while also creating an opportunity for people to have a dialog,” said art studio professor Valerie Aranda.

After teaching students at Georgia College for the past 14 years, Professor Aranda found art has become a way for not only her students, but also faculty and other members

of the community to come together to talk about real-life issues.

TeaYoun Kim-Kassor, assistant professor of art, proudly came to see her students’ final products and said she was delighted to see the outcome of the event.

“This is not my work, this is teamwork. More than anything, I’m happy you survived my class,” joked Kim-Kassor as her seniors handed her a bouquet of flowers.

Each of the seniors found that when they took something personal from their lives and incorporated it into their final pieces, it created a story.

“We decided to name this gallery ‘Common Ground’

because we felt it was representative of the commonality between each of our pieces,” said art major Logan Thomas, a senior. “Even though they are all significantly different, it was collaboration between each art student to make this creation.”

The students were asked by their professors why they devoted so much of their time not only to the classes they are required to take, but the work they do outside the class as well.

“Art is something no one can take away from you,” said senior art major, Courtney Bath. “No matter what’s going on in your life, it’s something you can create yourself.”

Each individual realized there was something inside them they needed to release and found the greatest way to do that was through art.

“It started with an experience when first I started my capstone,” said Bath. “I wanted a way to express my anger, instead of shying away from what I was feeling, I exaggerated those feelings and put that into my work.”

Most of the students have been drawing, painting and discovering more about how they can incorporate art into their everyday lives since before they can remember. Each student took great pride in taking time to figure out how they can create an impact on others within the community.

“Art is another tool of communication but it can be more powerful than language because it’s visually provoking,” Kim-Kassor said. “By having this visual, they can be brave and more communicative to the community, and you can see inside of their head.”

The first semester as a senior art major consists of research and development where the students have a short amount of time for high intensity work.

“I want to congratulate these brave students for putting on this wonderful show,” department chair Bill Fisher said.

The art department has been putting on this show for years, constantly recognizing the work and effort the seniors have put into the past years at Georgia College.

“You must be present in your work and active in the available resources,” Fisher said to the students. “Be hungry to produce more and better creations, and I hope we provided you all with enough real world experiences outside this institution.”

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Q: If you only had one day left, how would you spend it?

Compiled by Emily Hinely



“I’d spend it traveling. I’d go as many places as I could.”  
- Brandon Flynt, junior, computer science



“I’d do terrible things. I don’t give a f\*ck. I’d punch the 6’5” guy at the gym who only does 80 lb shoulder lifts.”  
- Franc Ferhati, freshman, computer science major



“I’m a virgin so I’d have sex. Then I’d go home and be with my family.”  
- Catherine Maloney, freshman, English major



“I probably would spend it with my family, like doing something fun outside...because I wouldn’t have time to go anywhere super crazy.”  
- Christina Bignotti, senior, theatre

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